

Temple of Ascending Flame



Samael - The Angel of Death

By Noctulius Isaac & Temple of Ascending Flame

This series of workings is focused on Samael, the prince of hell, in his aspect as the Reaper. As the patron god of the temple, Lucifer is known to have several different "masks" or manifestations, all having their own unique powers and initiatory lessons. Among these many faces we can find Samael, the Venom of God and the Lord of Death's Gate.

In Jewish lore, Samael is depicted as having an extremely ruthless nature. Mythology makes it clear that Samael is the only angel who is totally obedient to God, willing to violate or destroy any aspect of creation if it is God's mandate. Samael's wings blacken the face of the earth as he descends, sword burning with the flames of his wrath. He is God's most adversarial angel, so much so that he is thought to be the same "Satan" mentioned time and time again in Judeo-Christian scriptures. In the Draconian Tradition, he is sometimes seen as the black goat of the unholy Witches' Sabbat, wielding two scythes that represent the mystery of Life and Death. Other times, he appears as a black hooded figure with a sword in one hand and a poison-filled chalice in the other.

The Reaper on the path of the Dragon represents rites of passage, the importance of the Death Principle as an initiatory force. Draconian initiation views the principles of Death and Life as being inseparable parts of the same alchemical process, often represented as twin serpents: a black serpent and a red one. The integration of these forces is the true foundation of the path, which is change. Communion with the Dragon is evolution, spiritual Darwinism and the cycle of rebirth. None of this is possible without Death. This is the bittersweet gnosis of Samael.

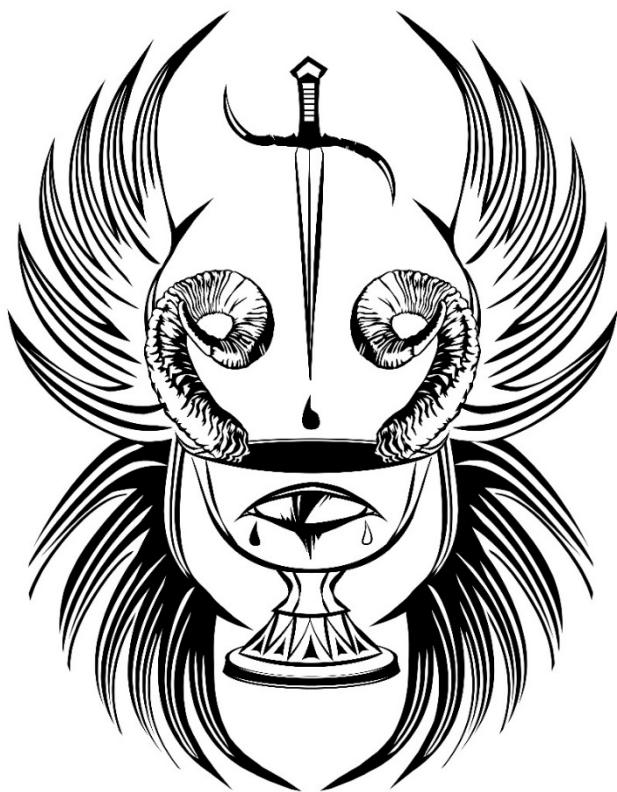
Day 1

Opening Death's Gate

Begin by standing in your ritual space. Your altar should be facing south, but you should be facing west. Raise your dagger in the direction of the west and draw the symbol of the trident. Visualize the trident burning with the red and gold flames of Lucifer. Feel the essence of the Dragon flowing through the trident and filling your ritual space. Imagine that you can see the other participants of the project standing around you in a circle; they are all dark, hooded figures whose faces cannot be seen.

When you feel ready, sit or stand in a comfortable position and place the sigil of Samael on your altar. Anoint the sigil with a few drops of your blood. Gaze into the sigil until it begins to flash and open. Meanwhile, chant the following mantra:

**"Samael, Shemal, Saklas, Chavayoth!
Lord of Death's Gate, I call you!"**



When the sigil is open and flashing, close your eyes and visualize yourself standing in the center of a cemetery. It is foggy all around and there is a cold breeze. Before you stands a nameless tomb. On the door of this tomb you see the sigil of Samael. The sigil is glowing with a vibrant and deadly red energy. Using your ritual dagger, you slice your left palm and place it against the glowing sigil of Samael. Just then you hear a deep “click” within the stone, as if it has just been unlocked with a key. The large stone door sinks down into the ground, opening the way to a flight of stairs leading down into pitch blackness. Relax, open your mind, and welcome any visions or intuitions that come to you.

Day 2

Death Contemplation

This is a simple meditation that will get you familiar with the energies of death. It should be performed in a cemetery, as death energy is naturally strong there, but if it is not possible, simply visualize it. Sit down in a comfortable position. Become aware of your breathing and begin to relax yourself. Take your time with this. When you feel sufficiently relaxed, open your awareness to the environment. Begin to notice the tombstones that are all around you. Realize that you are surrounded by people who have passed, been buried, and have been forgotten. Notice the wind, the birds, the sound of cars passing by, and think about how the world moves on without them. Really get into the headspace of mortality here. Think about how, in another century, you'll be here, too. This is your ultimate and final destination.

As you perform this meditation, embrace any feelings that arise. Don't try to suppress the twinges of sorrow or fear that you may feel. They will awaken you to the impermanence of all things, the necessity of death as a part of life. This is how the sorrowful energy of death is transformed into inspiration and a lust for life.

Day 3

Death and Rebirth

Lie down on your back in the coffin position and begin to take deep, relaxing breaths. As you do this, imagine that there is a fiery snake coiled at the base of your spine. Feel how this serpentine energy is warm and slightly arousing. Notice how each deep, relaxing breath gradually begins to awaken this fiery force. As you inhale, the oxygen is being burned; as the oxygen burns, the warmth and lust intensify. Allow this force to build pressure within you as it ascends your spine, transforming into a streaming pillar of fire that awakens every cell in your body.

Having done this, gently bring your focus to the sensation of your astral body, feeling it becoming lighter. With each relaxing, cleansing breath, feel your soul rising as you exit your physical body. Don't try too hard at this, but rather let it happen naturally. If you can't get a full "out of body experience" here, that's normal and perfectly fine. All you're trying to do is get a realistic imagination of transferring your mind outside of your physical body.

Once this is achieved, imagine that your physical body is dead. You have passed on and are now on the astral plane. Look around at your immediate surroundings. Venture outside your window and feel the gentle breeze, or notice the traffic as it passes by. Look around at the world and see how all of those things are still going on without you.

When you feel ready you can return to your body. Think of this as a resurrection. See yourself as having been brought back to life. Reflect on your experience for a while, allowing the impermanence of all things to truly sink in.

Day 4

The Wild Hunt

Begin this ritual as you did on the first day with the trident and visualizing the other participants. Sit in a comfortable position and gaze into the sigil of Samael. See the furious red energy of Samael radiating from his sigil. Feel that the sigil is opening as a gateway to the Draconian current, spilling forth energies of the Void into your ritual space. Meanwhile, chant the mantra:

**"Sound the horn of Samael,
Herald the Wild Hunt!"**

When the sigil is open and flashing, close your eyes and imagine that you are walking along the street in an abandoned city at night. There are soft hissing sounds coming from every direction, and in the distance you hear dogs barking. Suddenly the ground begins to tremble. In the distance you can see a stampede of horsemen riding towards you. As they get closer, you notice that they are dead — their flesh is rotting, yellowing, with missing limbs and exposed bone. The horses are the same. You think to run, but the hissing around you has already gotten too close. A snake bites your calf, and an ice-cold fear now fills your veins, paralyzing you.

One by one the horsemen ride past you, each cutting off a piece of your body while another captures it as a trophy. Your hand goes, and then your arm, then your other arm, etc. Feel that with each body part severed, so is a portion of your very sense of self. Your identity goes, and then your desires, and then your fears, etc. Eventually, there is nothing physical or spiritual left — there is only the blackness of the Void.

Dwell within this nothingness for a while. Feel the emptiness and sense of loneliness. When you are ready, close the ritual and go about your day.

Day 5

Invocation of the Lord of Shadows

Begin this ritual in the same way you started the previous ones, with the trident, visualization of other members, etc. Gaze into the sigil of Samael, allowing yourself to see the fiery red energies emanating from it. When the sigil begins to open and flash, recite the following invocation:

**"Samael, Venom of God,
I descend into the womb of the earth.
Let me rise in unbound ecstasy,
Liberated from the surrounding world.
Grant my passage through Death's Gate, and guide me into the other side.
Protect and lead me now,
As I journey into the underworld."**

Lie down, close your eyes, and imagine the same cemetery you saw on the first day. This time, there is an altar in the center of the cemetery. You are on that altar. Visualize that the sum of your severed body parts are piled upon the altar, and feel yourself (your consciousness) trapped within this pile of gore. Samael stands over you, a black hooded figure with a sword in his right hand. He waves his left hand over your dead body parts, and you begin to feel your soul becoming lighter and lifting into the air. You detach from your body and find yourself standing at the entrance of the tomb that you saw on the first day. This time however, you begin to walk down the steps. You can hear the stone door closing shut behind you.

You are now trapped in the underworld, forced to explore your personal unconscious. The only way out is to journey through this dark realm. It is terrifying, but also promising. It is the home of your scariest personal demons, but hidden here is also the creative potential to reconstruct all that which was lost in death. At this point, open yourself to any visions and intuitions that may come to you. Freely explore your dark side and see what it might have to show you about yourself. When you feel ready to return, open your eyes, thank Samael, and close the ritual.

Day 6

Invocation of the King of Death

Begin this ritual like the day before. Take a moment to reflect on the workings of the previous days. Ask yourself if you have learned by now what obstacles might be holding you back from personal development and power. When you feel ready to begin, gaze into the sigil and chant the following mantra:

"Samael, Shemal, Saklas, Chavayoth"

When the sigil is open and flashing, close your eyes and imagine that a hooded being enters into your ritual space. He is pitch black with pale, ethereal wings. This is Samael the Reaper. He wields a flaming sword in his right hand and a poisoned chalice in his left. Feel him enter into your soul, possessing and becoming you. Now imagine that you are the Reaper. See yourself as this same hooded figure of spiritual blackness. Feel the coldness that stills the air around you, that grim silence and acceptance that

heralds death. Feel the power that emanates from your eyes and know that your gaze could instantly stop a heartbeat.

Now take your dagger in hand and think back to the reflecting you did before ritual. Your dagger is the flaming sword of Samael, and you now notice that there are shadowy figures kneeling before you. These "shadow people" represent the obstacles that you have discovered while working with Samael. One by one, slay them with your flaming sword. Put to death all that has been keeping you resistant to change and growth.

Get creative with this visualization, being as morbid or as humane as you would like. Some things may be painful to let go of. Other things may inspire your rage, and you'll feel good to finally annihilate them. Keep an open mind and welcome any emotions that might come. When you are finished, complete the series of workings with a few personal words of thanks to the Archangel of Death.